

PILOT PROJECT GUIDELINES
Effective September 19, 2014

AUTHORITY

The Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation state:

8 VAC 20-70-460 – Specifications.

“It is the intent of the Board of Education to accommodate new equipment technology that will better facilitate the safe and efficient transportation of students. When a new technology, piece of equipment, or component is desired to be applied to a school bus, it must have the approval of the Department of Education and must meet the following criteria:

1. The technology, equipment, or component shall not compromise the effectiveness or integrity of any major safety system.
2. The technology, equipment, or component shall not diminish the safety of the interior of the bus.
3. The technology, equipment, or component shall not create additional risk to students who are boarding or exiting the bus or are in or near the school bus loading zone.
4. The technology, equipment, or component shall not require undue additional activity or responsibility for the driver.
5. The technology, equipment, or component shall generally increase efficiency or safety, or both, of the bus, generally provide for a safer or more pleasant experience for the occupants and pedestrians in the vicinity of the bus, or shall generally assist the driver and make his many tasks easier to perform.

School buses and school activity buses must conform to the specifications relative to construction and design effective on the date of procurement. Any variation from the specifications, in the form of additional equipment or changes in style of equipment, without prior approval of the Department of Education, is prohibited. The Department of Education shall issue specifications and standards for public school buses to reflect desired technology or safety improvements for the then current model year.”

8 VAC 20-70-470 – Adjustments.

“The Superintendent of Public Instruction is authorized to make such adjustments from time to time in technical specifications as are deemed necessary in the interest of safety and efficiency in school bus operation. This includes the issuance of chassis specifications by size, type and mode

year. Authority is also granted for conducting investigations and field test of certain pertinent vehicle components.”

Code of Virginia, § 22.1-16

The Board of Education may adopt by laws for its own government and promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out its powers and duties and the provisions of this title.

Code of Virginia, §22.1-177

The Board may make regulations relating to the construction, design, operation, equipment, and color of public school buses and shall have the authority to issue an order prohibiting the operation on public streets and highways or any public school bus that does not comply with such regulations. Any such order shall be enforced by the Department of State Police.

Local school boards may, notwithstanding any regulation to the contrary, display decals depicting the flag of the United States on the sides and rear of school buses as long as any such decal does not obstruct the name of the school division or the number of the school bus and is no larger than 100 square inches. In addition, local school boards may, notwithstanding any regulation to the contrary, display decals relating to school bus safety. Local school division shall be responsible for the cost of the decals. Such decal shall not obstruct the name of the school division or the number of the school bus.

No regulation of the Board shall unreasonably limit the authority of any local school division to purchase and use school buses using compressed natural gas or other alternative fuels or convert its school buses to use compressed natural gas or other alternative fuels.

Procedures of the Technical Advisory Committee

1. The committee will meet as needed to review pilot request.
2. Committee may request additional information on the pilot.

GUIDELINES TO VENDORS AND PILOT PROJECTS

The vendor must make request to the school division to participate in a pilot project. Before a pilot project can be referred to the “Specification Committee” for consideration, it should have been tested and completed in multiple regions.

1. Applications for pilot projects must be made by the vendor to the Department of Education. Applications will be forwarded to the Technical Advisory Committee for review.
2. The application must contain:
 - A. Details on product and product claims for measurable results.
 - B. Letter acknowledging the cost of installation and/or removal of product to return vehicle back to pre-installed condition will be the responsibility of the vendor.
 - C. Method to measure results as applicable.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR A PILOT PROJECT

1. An application (Attached A) must be submitted to the Department of Education that gives detailed information on the pilot project. It will include information on the project and how it will be tested.
2. The Department of Education will forward the request to the Technical Advisory Committee for review.
3. The Technical Advisory Committee will review the pilot request and may ask for additional information.
4. A notice of approval/disapproval will be returned to the requesting school division.
5. Upon successful testing in multiple regions, the pilot results can be referred to the specification committee for consideration.

APPLICATION FOR PILOT PROJECT

Products to be piloted _____

School Division _____

Number of Buses _____

Bus Numbers, model year, and type of bus product will be installed on

Bus Number	Model Year	Type of Bus
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Detailed Description of Product

*Cost of installation _____

*Cost of removal _____

How are results measured?

Signature of vendor submitting request _____

*Vendor acknowledges that the cost of product installation and removal is the sole responsibility of the vendor. Initials _____

Pilot Control Number _____

Pilot Approved for Installation _____ Not approved _____

Date approved by Technical Advisory Committee _____

Letter sent to Vendor on approval _____

Startup date _____ Completion Date _____

REPORT ON PILOT PROJECT

Pilot Project _____

Vendor _____

School Divisions involved _____

Number of buses involved _____

Bumper No	Mileage Start	Mileage Stop

Product Quality _____

Product Performance _____

Would you recommend this item for use on Virginia School Buses?

Yes _____ No _____

Reason _____

Signed _____ Date _____